

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are hereby cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer, and new claims 23-67 are added. These claims do not present new matter, and are similar to claims previously presented in Application No. 09/991,964.

Support for claims 23-42 may be found in the specification as a whole, for example, at pages 9-10, tables 1-4. Table 3 shows that the effective concentration of the protein in mg/L after 8 weeks of storage is about 93% of that of the first day. Table 1 shows that the amount of valuable protein after 8 weeks of storage is about 97% of that of the first day. Therefore, in these experiments, the effective concentration of the protein did not decrease by more than about 7% and about 3%, respectively, during this lengthy storage time. In tables 2 and 4, the amount of valuable substance remained essentially constant over 8 weeks of storage.

Support for claims 43-67, which recite particular storage times, can be found in the specification at page 4, lines 9-10, page 5, lines 11-15, page 9, tables 1-3, and page 10, table 4 and lines 6-7, among other locations. Note that "2 months," as recited in claim 49, may represent more than 60 days, depending on how it is measured.

The term "about" applied to temperature, percentage effective concentration, and concentration of cysteine in the claims may account for deviations from the exact numbers recited due to experimental and measurement error.

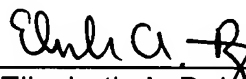
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If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment that is not otherwise accounted for, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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